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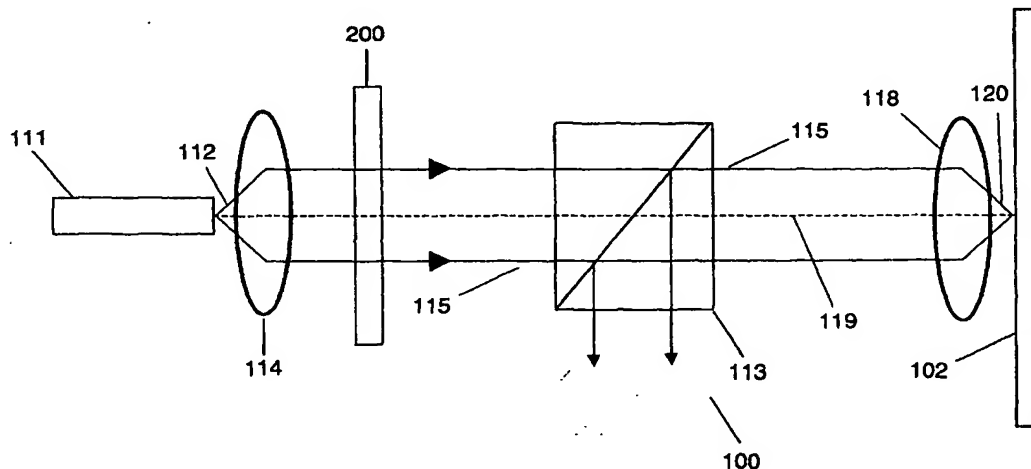
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SCANNING DEVICE INCLUDING AN OPTICAL FILTER



(57) Abstract: An optical scanning device (1; 100) for scanning an information layer (4) of an optical record carrier (2; 102). The device comprises a radiation source (11; 111) for generating a radiation beam (12, 15, 20; 112, 115, 120), an objective system (18; 118) for converging the radiation beam on the information layer (4), and an optical filter (200) for regulating the intensity profile of the radiation beam. The filter has an optical axis (119) and comprises a saturable absorber (206) having an absorption that saturates at a threshold incident radiation intensity. For incident radiation beams of intensity less than the threshold, the absorption of the absorber decreases with distance away from the axis.



DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT,
RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 558 208 A (HUDSON KENNETH C) 26 January 1971 (1971-01-26) column 1, line 14 -column 1, line 18 column 1, line 60 -column 2, line 21 column 4, line 21 -column 5, line 67 ---	1-12
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 08, 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) & JP 11 073677 A (YAMAHA CORP), 16 March 1999 (1999-03-16) abstract ---	1-8, 11, 12
A	US 5 231 624 A (FINEGAN JOEL D) 27 July 1993 (1993-07-27) column 3, line 28 -column 4, line 24 abstract --- -/-	1-8, 11, 12

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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 5 920 537 A (HAYASHI HIDEKI ET AL) 6 July 1999 (1999-07-06) column 2, line 66 -column 3, line 64 column 9, line 36 -column 9, line 63; figures 13,14 abstract</p>	<p>1-8,11, 12</p>
A	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 10, 31 August 1998 (1998-08-31) & JP 10 124902 A (SANYO ELECTRIC CO LTD), 15 May 1998 (1998-05-15) abstract</p>	<p>1-8,11, 12</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International A

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